

by the pattern on the abdomen, of which the form also is different. In *S. dufourii* the pale posterior extremity shows on its posterior border five distinct pale points; the present species shows only three, and those somewhat irregularly defined. The present Spider is also of much larger size than either of those mentioned, the length given of *S. dufourii* being 12 millim., and that of *S. madagascariensis* 11 millim., whereas *Selenops diversus* measures in length 10 lines, or nearly as possible 21 millim.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

PLATE XXX.

- Fig. 1. *Byblia boydi*, sp. n., ♂, p. 375.
 1a. " " " ♂, underside.
 2. " " " ♀.
 2a. " " " ♀, underside.
 3. *Papilio bennetti*, sp. n., ♂, p. 381.
 4. *Pæcilocerus sokotranus*, sp. nov., ♂ p. 384.

PLATE XXXI.

- Fig. 1. *Selenops diversus*, sp. n., ♀, p. 390.
 1a. " " " Genital apertures.
 2. *Nephila bennetti*, sp. n., ♀, p. 387.
 2a. " " " Genital apertures.
 3. *Gasteracantha sodalis*, sp. n., ♀, p. 388.
 4. *Tetragnatha boydi*, sp. n., p. 389. Cephalothorax and eyes.
 4a & 4b. " " " Falx and fang in two positions.

May 17, 1898.

W. T. BLANFORD, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The following papers were read:—

1. On a small Collection of Mammals obtained by Mr. Alfred Sharpe, C.B., in Nyasaland. By OLDFIELD THOMAS, F.Z.S.

[Received April 23, 1898.]

Now that Sir Harry Johnston has left Nyasaland, the efforts he made to investigate the fauna of that country are fortunately being continued by his successor in the post of Commissioner and Consul-General, Mr. Alfred Sharpe, C.B., to whom the British Museum is already indebted for a certain number of specimens. These, among which the most noticeable is the little Antelope described as *Raphiceros sharpei*, have already been mentioned in previous papers.

In October 1897 Mr. Sharpe made a trip to the northern

boundaries of Nyasaland, and there obtained a small collection of mammals, some from the Songwe River, and some brought in by native collectors from still further northward. The present paper gives a list of these specimens and also includes a few additional mammals from Zomba and other places in Southern Nyasa, among which are two Genets presented by Mr. H. C. McDonald. The paper thus forms another, the sixth, of the series read before this Society upon the Mammals of Nyasaland.

1. *RHYNCHOCYON CIRNEI* Peters.

a, b. Zomba, 8 and 11/97.

2. *VIVERRA CIVETTA* Schr.

a. Immature.

3. *GENETTA TIGRINA* Schr.

a. Kazungu; *b.* Kotakota, 30/9/97.

Collected and presented by H. C. McDonald, Esq.
Native name "Mwiri."

4. *CROSSARCHUS FASCIATUS* Desm.

a. Zomba, 10/11/97.
Mananga name "Sulu."

5. *LUTRA CAPENSIS* Schinz.

a. Imm. ♂. Ntondwe River, Shiré Highlands, 3000 feet,
June 1897.

This fine Otter is still very rare in collections, and further specimens of it, especially adult skulls of either sex, would be most acceptable. Skulls alone, to any number, would always be worth preserving.

6. *LUTRA MACULICOLLIS* Licht.

a. Young. Zomba Plain, 2500 feet.

7. *SCIURUS MUTABILIS* Pet.

a, b. Chiradzula, June 1897.

c. Zomba, June 1897.

Native name "Nabenga."

8. *GERBILLUS AFER* Gr.

a, b. Ad. and imm. ♂. Songwe, Oct. 1897.

9. *GERBILLUS (GERBILLISCUS) FRATERCULUS*, sp. n.

a. ♂. Songwe, 2500 feet, Oct. 1897. *Type.*

Considerably smaller than the only previously known species of the subgenus, *G. böhmi* Noack. General colour similar, but more heavily marked with black on the back, the black-tipped hairs

being specially numerous over the loins. Belly-hairs slaty grey basally. Hands and feet pure white above, the latter conspicuously shorter than in *G. böhmi*. Tail long, brown above throughout, white below, not white all round terminally as in *G. böhmi*.

Skull smaller and slighter than in *G. böhmi*. Interparietal larger. Palatal foramina narrow and laterally compressed. Posterior narial passage narrow, its opening above reduced to a mere notch in the centre.

Teeth. Incisors quite smooth and rounded in front, without even the rudimentary grooves found in *G. böhmi*. Molars comparatively light and delicate.

Dimensions of the type, an adult female, in skin:—

Head and body 120 mm.; tail 122; hind foot (moistened) 32; ear 17.

Skull: basilar length 29 mm.; nasals 14.2×4.1 ; interorbital breadth 6; breadth of brain-case 15; length of anterior zygoma-root 7.5; diastema 10.1; palate length from henselion 17.5; upper molar series (crowns) 5.8.

Hab. Songwe, N. Nyasa.

Type. B.M. No. 98.5.22.14. Collected and presented by Mr. Alfred Sharpe.

This species may be readily distinguished by its smaller size and differently-coloured tail from *G. böhmi*, of which the British Museum recently received examples obtained at Fort Hill during Mr. Whyte's exploration of Northern Nyasa¹.

10. *STEATOMYS PRATENSIS* Pet.

a-d. Songwe, Oct. 1897.

11. *EQUUS BURCHELLI CRAWSHAYI* De Wint.

a, b. Adult and young. Zomba.

12. *BUBALIS LICHTENSTEINI* Pet.

a, b. ♀. Zomba.

13. *CEPHALOPHUS LUGENS*, sp. n.

a, b. Imm. ♀ and its foetus. Urori.

c. Flat skin. October 1897.

A member of the *C. monticola* group, but larger and darker coloured than in any of the three species of that group, *C. monticola*, *melanorheus*, and *aequatorialis*². Female with horns.

General colour above dark umber-brown. Forehead and top of muzzle nearly black, the crest, which is much longer than is usual in this group, quite black; sides of face brown, the lines over the eyes brownish white. Backs of ears black for their anterior halves.

¹ See P. Z. S. 1897, p. 935.

² Since the above was written Dr. Matschie has described (S.B. Ges. nat. Fr. 1897, p. 158) another member of this group—*C. hecki*, from Mozambique; but that, like *C. monticola*, has red legs.

Neck uniformly brown, like the back; the hairs on its middle line above reversed forward. Colour of back gradually darkening posteriorly almost or quite to black, but this darker colour is not shown up by a lighter patch on the outer side of each hip, as it is in *C. melanorheus* and *aequatorialis*, but, as in *C. monticola*, the hips are uniformly brown. Under surface and inner side of forearms pale mouse-colour, the chin, interramia, and inguinal region whitish. Limbs dark brown like back, not reddish as in *C. monticola*.

Skull slightly larger than in *C. monticola*, though the type is immature. Horns (of ♀) well developed, about an inch in length. Median notch of palate scarcely anterior to lateral notches.

Skull-dimensions of the type, a female, which, though its milk-teeth are still in place, contained a foetus when killed:—

Extreme length 131 mm.; basal length 114; greatest breadth 62·5; nasals 37 × 20; breadth of brain-case 49; palate length 68.

Hab. Urori (also called Usango), German East Africa, about 8° S. and 34° E. Altitude about 3000 feet.

Type. B.M. No. 98.5.22.21. Killed October, 1897.

The foetus, specimen *b*, extracted from the type by the skinner, is similar to its mother in colour, except that the general tone of the body is not so dark, owing to an admixture of rufous hairs on the back; the hairs on the inner sides of the ears are also rufous. But the blackish frontal colour, the dark brownish limbs, and the absence of the lighter patches on the back of the hips are all as evident in the foetus as in its parent.

The specimens of this new species were brought to Mr. Sharpe by his native hunters, who obtained it in Urori, some way north-east of the German frontier of British Nyasaland.

Cephalophus lugens is very probably the little Antelope referred to by Matschie¹ as having been seen by Böhmer near Mpwapa, where it was known under the name of "Nsimba."

14. NESOTRAGUS LIVINGSTONIANUS Kirk.

a. Ad. ♀. Mwanza, Lower Shiré, 2500 feet, July 1897.

Native name "Kadumba." Contained a foetus when killed.

This little Antelope forms a valuable addition to the Museum collection, as it is practically a topotype of Kirk's species, of which the actual type only consists of a very incomplete skull and the skin of the head. That specimen came from Shupanga, a little below the junction of the Shiré with the Zambesi.

15. KOBUS VARDONI Livingst.

a. ♀. Urori (Usango), 3000 feet, October 1897.

16. OREAS CANNA LIVINGSTONEI ScL.

a. Skin ♀. Zomba.

b. Skull ♂. „

¹ Säug. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 115 (1895).